

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 231534

62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231534

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SHORTAGES AND PRICE RISE RUMORS

REF: (A) STATE 229171, (B) WARSAW 6334

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL A THERE HAVE BEEN SUBSEQUENT REPORTS ON SUBJECT MATTER FROM OIC MUNICH. MESSAGES SUGGEST GROWING TENSIONS AMONG POPULATION REGARDING SHORTAGES AND EXISTING OR ANTICIPATED PRICE RISES. SYMPTOMATIC OF PROLIFERATING RUMORS IS ONE CLAIMING THAT GEIREK HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO SIGN A LAW DECREEEING STEEP PRICE INCREASES FOR PRACTICALLY ALL FOOD PRODUCTS.

2. WHILE OIC MUNICH NOTES THAT LATTER IS FAR-FETCHED IN CONTENT, IT MAKES THE POINT THAT IT BEING SUBMITTED SINCE "A SERIES OF SIMILAR REPORTS WERE OBTAINED THROUGH THIS COLLECTION MEDIA IN THE FALL OF 1970 PRIOR TOTHE DECEMBER RIOTS IN GDANSK, YET SUCH REPORTS WERE FORWARDED ROUTINELY AND DID NOT REACH ANALYSIS UNTIL AFTER RIOTS OCCURRED."

3. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE RUMORS ARE HIGHLY FAR-FETCHED AND DISPROVEN BY FACTS DEPARTMENT WOULD NEVERTHELESS APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS. INGERSOLL

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